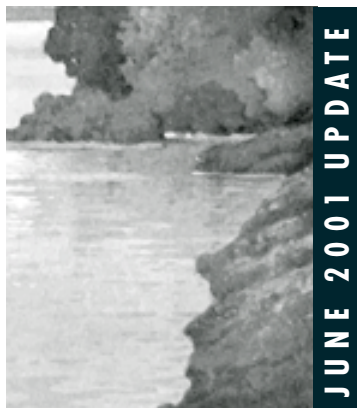


Cleaning up our WATER

• CLEAN WATER PROGRAM •



JUNE 2001 UPDATE

What is the Clark County Clean Water Program?

The Clark County Clean Water Program began in 2000 to enhance existing efforts to protect water resources within the county. The program was initiated in response to federal and state mandates requiring local government agencies to better control and clean stormwater runoff. This means reducing pollution and its impacts to ensure that Clark County:

- takes steps to control and reduce pollutants that are discharged from its stormwater sewer system to area streams, rivers, wetlands, and lakes,
- coordinates clean water efforts within county departments effectively, and
- provides additional opportunities for public involvement and education.

The 2001-02 budget for the Clean Water Program (24 months) is approximately \$7.3 million. This newsletter describes some of the ways the clean water fee is enhancing water quality in Clark County.

What's new as a result of the clean water fee?

Now in its second year, the Clark County Clean Water Program has enhanced existing services and developed new activities to reduce negative stormwater impacts. The following is a brief overview of some of the clean water activities that have been implemented to date.

Enhanced operation and maintenance of stormwater and pollution control facilities.

Clark County carried out additional inspections and maintenance of stormwater facilities to help keep sediment and pollutants from entering the storm sewer system; established a computer-based stormwater facility maintenance tracking and scheduling program; increased the level of street sweeping; and performed annual inspections of private stormwater facilities. Some of the enhanced activities include:

- Mowing 236 county-owned bioswales (low, grassy channels that trap sediment and other pollutants) and 127 county-

owned detention and retention ponds increased to four times per year. Previously, mowing occurred as requested.

- Inspecting and cleaning of 5,443 county-owned catch basins (facilities that collect runoff from streets and parking lots, routing the runoff to the larger storm sewer system) increased from once every three years to once annually.

- Inspecting and cleaning of 811 county-owned drywells occurs every three to five years. Prior to the implementation of the clean water fee, there was no regularly scheduled maintenance for drywells.

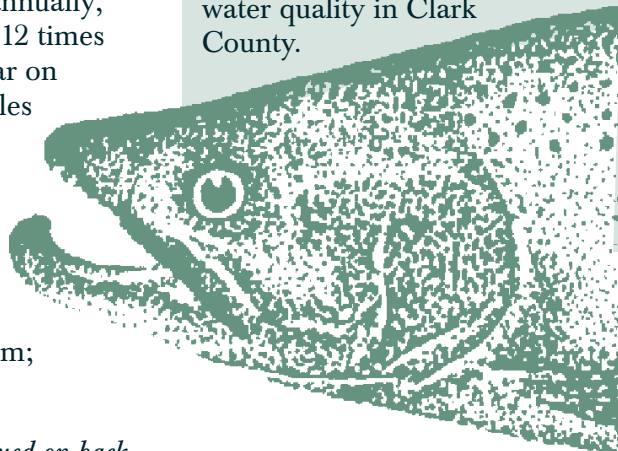
- Street sweeping 450 miles of county-owned neighborhood roads increased from six to nine times annually, and to 12 times per year on 105 miles

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of major roadways.

Increased monitoring and evaluation. County staff are developing a centralized stormwater management data system;

continued on back



mapping public and private stormwater systems; monitoring and evaluating water quality; and reporting on the implementation and effectiveness of the various stormwater management programs and activities.

Increased opportunities for public involvement and education.

County staff established and implemented a public involvement and education outreach program that involves citizens, businesses, and schools in reducing stormwater-related pollution. The Clean Water Program provides the resources to continue and enhance existing programs.

- *Natural Lawn Care Program.* The goal of this program is to reduce use of toxic yard and garden chemicals that can have a negative effect on our water.
- *The River Rangers Program.* This program trains volunteers to teach elementary students how we use, treat, and protect water in our homes and communities.
- *Clark County/WSU Cooperative Extension Watershed Stewards Program.* This program trains volunteers in watershed and water quality protection.
- *Stormwater Assistance for Businesses.* This program provides Clark County businesses with technical assistance and information about the most effective ways to manage stormwater.



Completed capital improvement projects. Several stormwater improvement projects have been built or planned since the inception of the Clean Water Program. These include improving a storm-water sludge separation facility,

replacing culverts, designing drainage overflow lines, and modifying the Thomas Lake Regional Stormwater Facility for improved water quality treatment and flood control.

Over time, these projects will help to improve water quality in Clark County.

Improved enforcement of environmental regulations.

The county revised stormwater and erosion control regulations to meet state standards, improved measures to control erosion, and increased inspections to enforce stormwater-related development.

Through the Clean Water Program, Clark County hired additional inspection staff and increased the number of stormwater and erosion control inspections by more than 20 percent. In 2000, code enforcement officers performed 2,197 inspections.

What is the Clean Water Commission?

The Board of Clark County Commissioners appointed the members of the Clean Water Commission to ensure that the Clean Water Program is responsive and accountable to citizens. The Clean Water Commission meets the third Wednesday of every month from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Clark County Public Works Operations Center, 4700 NE 78th Street, Vancouver. Meetings are open to the public.

For more information

The Clark County Clean Water Commission:

Year 2000 Annual Report provides detailed information about activities that are funded by the clean water fee. It is available on the web site, www.co.clark.wa.us, or by calling (360) 397-6118 ext. 4345. If you have other questions or comments, or if you would like additional information about the Clean Water Program, please call the Clark County Environmental Services Division at (360) 397-6118 ext. 4352. You may also send e-mail to cleanwater@co.clark.wa.us or visit our web site at www.co.clark.wa.us.

